

1841, and subsequently articulated to Messrs. Wilton, solicitors, of that place. When admitted, he was received into the firm as a partner, and ultimately became its sole representative. He had a very extensive practice of the highest class, and he held many valuable public appointments, being Registrar of the County Court; County Treasurer; Clerk of Indictments; and Clerk to the Income Tax Commissioners, as well as of many public companies. In all these capacities he brought to bear a very sound judgment, a wide knowledge, and unswerving integrity. He devoted considerable attention to scientific pursuits, and possessed large scientific knowledge, especially upon the subject of astronomy, the study of which occupied much of his leisure time. He built an observatory in his grounds, and fitted it with a 12-inch reflecting telescope by Browning, a transit instrument, sidereal clock, and other requisites.

It is interesting to know that his observatory and all its contents, together with a full set of spectroscopic apparatus, have been presented by his widow to the Gloucester School of Science, in which he took a keen interest, and where it is hoped that they will serve to promote the study of astronomy.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society January 11, 1878.

GEORGE WEST ROYSTON-PIGOTT was the youngest son of the Rev. Solomon Pigott, for many years Rector of Dunstable. He entered the University of Cambridge in 1838 and graduated as twenty-second Wrangler in 1841, his mathematical tutor being the Rev. W. R. Griffin, and soon after taking his degree he was elected to a Fellowship at Peterhouse. He continued in residence at Cambridge for several years longer, pursuing the study of medicine, and took the degree of M.D. there in 1851. Dr. Royston-Pigott attained distinguished success as a physician during his subsequent residence at Harrogate, but after some years he retired from the active duties of his profession. Meanwhile he never relaxed the favourite studies which led him into the domains of astronomy and the world of marvels revealed by the microscope. He was a mechanic of the first order, and many details of his costly and beautiful instruments were wrought by his own hands or carried out under his direction.

Finding himself at one time baffled by the imperfections of even the best microscopic objectives, he set himself to investigate the causes of the residuary aberration and to devise means for correcting it. Here his knowledge of mathematical optics told. By means of corrections of his own devising, applied to the highest powers of the instrument, he succeeded in resolving objects of hitherto invincible difficulty, and pointing out to other observers most interesting lines of work. It was in recognition of his eminent service to science in this respect that he was, in 1873, elected Fellow of the Royal Society. Shortly after this a Fellowship in the Royal College of Physicians was offered to him, which, however, having then retired from medical practice,

he thought it right to decline. The record of Dr. Royston-Pigott's work is not contained in any great production, but lies scattered in numerous papers published in the Transactions of the Royal and other societies, and a record more abiding and more useful perhaps remains in improvements in various scientific instruments and more refined methods of research suggested by him. His ideas and discoveries were freely made public from time to time for the benefit of all who might find them useful.

He died at his residence at Eastbourne, September 14, 1889.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society, February 12, 1869.

GAETANO CACCIATORE was born at Palermo on March 17, 1814. He was the son of Catarina Emanuela Martina and Nicolo Cacciatore, the distinguished Director of the Palermo Observatory and the successor of the illustrious Piazzi.

Gaetano Cacciatore received his education at the Istituto Nautico and the University of Palermo, where he pursued his mathematical studies until the year 1834. In the following year he was placed under the guidance of his father as Second Assistant at the Observatory of Palermo, and in 1839 he succeeded to the position of First Assistant. On the death of his father in 1841 he undertook provisionally the direction of the Observatory, which position he held until the year 1843, when he was appointed Professor of Astronomy at the University of Palermo and Director of the Observatory.

In 1842 he commenced the publication of the *Annuario* of the Palermo Observatory, which contained astronomical ephemerides, meteorological observations, &c.

In 1848 he took an active part in the Sicilian revolt, and became a Deputy to the Sicilian Parliament, where he assisted in decreeing the downfall of the Bourbons. On the restoration of the reigning family, in 1849, Cacciatore refused to retract his action, and consequently he was banished from Palermo, and the Chair of Astronomy became vacant.

Cacciatore, being thus deprived of his observatory and astronomical work, took up the profession of engineer to the sulphur mines of Grotta Calda, for which he was much indebted to the generosity of the Prince of Sant Elia.

On the liberation of Sicily by Garibaldi in 1860, he was recalled to his former position at the Observatory and to the Professorship of Astronomy at the University.

Notwithstanding the long absence of ten years from his observatory and astronomical pursuits, his enthusiasm for his favourite science led him to devise means to raise the Palermo Observatory to a higher and more important position.

In 1863 he mounted under a large dome the fine equatorial refractor by Merz, of 9.8 inches aperture and $14\frac{1}{2}$ feet focal length. In the same year he began the publication of the *Bullettino Meteorologico* of the Palermo Observatory, which up to 1872 contained astronomical notes and memoirs; after that time